AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application with the following listing of claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Device for palletizing empty plastic bottles having a neck collar, comprising:

a transposing device for forming layers of plastic bottles that are fed in rows,

a pallet loader for transferring the layers,

a conveyor zone situated between the transposing device and the pallet loader wherein the conveyor zone is a sliding table for a layer and the table is movable between a normal parking station of the transposing device and a normal receiving station of the pallet loader, and

a buffer for intermediate storage of at least one layer, wherein the transposing device loads layers of plastic bottles to the conveyor zone or to the buffer and wherein the pallet loader picks up the layers of plastic bottles from either the conveyor zone or the buffer and the buffer has a reversible carriage for receiving at least one layer of plastic bottles.

2. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer is arranged at least partially beside the conveyor zone.

3. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer is arranged at least partially beneath the conveyor zone.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer has at least one endless conveyor chain for receiving at least one layer of ~~objects~~ plastic bottles.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer is provided with supports for the plastic bottles.

8. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 7, wherein the supports are adjustable for adaptation to different diameters of the plastic bottles.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, wherein the buffer is arranged beneath the sliding table and passes by an additional parking station of the transposing device as well as an additional receiving station of the pallet loader.

11. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 10, wherein the transposing device and the pallet loader one of execute an additional stroke during which they set down the ~~objects~~ plastic bottles on the buffer or pick up the plastic bottles from the buffer.

12. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, and a distributor connected upstream from the transposing device continuously shapes several rows of ~~objects~~ plastic bottles from an incoming row of plastic bottles.

13. (Currently Amended) Device for palletizing empty plastic bottles having a neck collar, comprising

a transposing device for forming layers of plastic bottles supplied in rows,

a pallet loader transferring the layers of plastic bottles to pallets,

a conveyor zone arranged between the transposing device and the pallet loader for the layers of plastic bottles formed by the transposing device, and

a distributor which is provided upstream from the transposing device continuously forms several outgoing rows of plastic bottles from an incoming row of plastic bottles, wherein the distributor has a continuously revolving conveyor chain for a single-row feed of plastic bottles, a plurality of clamping star wheels revolving in synchronization being connected one of directly or indirectly downstream from the conveyor chain, removing the plastic bottles individually from the conveyor chain and distributing them among multiple paths.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 13, wherein the distributor has multiple continuously revolving conveyor chains for a single row supply of plastic bottles, several clamping star wheels being connected one of directly or indirectly downstream from each, individually removing the plastic bottles from the conveyor chains and distributing them among multiple paths.

16. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 15, wherein the conveyor chains form a tangent to the discharge star wheel of a blow molding machine and are loaded alternately with plastic bottles by the controllable gripper arms of the discharge star wheel.

17. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 15, wherein each of the conveyor chains is equipped with individually controllable gripper tongs for targeted gripping and release of one plastic bottles at a time.

18. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 15, wherein each of the conveyor chains has a curved path in the transfer area to the clamping star wheels.

19. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 15, and at least one clamping star wheel that can be driven in synchronization is provided for one of at least one conveyor chain or at least one clamping star wheel for input plastic bottles from a storage device into one of the conveyor chain or into the clamping star wheels.

20. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 15, and a transfer device for transferring plastic bottles between one of the conveyor chains or the clamping star wheels assigned to them.

21. (New) Device for palletizing empty plastic bottles having a neck collar, comprising:

a transposing device for forming layers of plastic bottles that are fed in rows,

a pallet loader for transferring the layers,

a conveyor zone situated between the transposing device and the pallet loader wherein the conveyor zone is a sliding table for a layer and the table is movable between a normal parking station of the transposing device and a normal receiving station of the pallet loader, and

a buffer for intermediate storage of at least one layer, wherein the transposing device loads layers of plastic bottles to the conveyor zone or to the buffer and wherein the pallet loader picks up the layers of plastic bottles from either the conveyor zone or the buffer, wherein the buffer is provided with supports for the plastic bottles, and wherein the supports are adjustable for adaptation to different diameters of the plastic bottles.

22. (New) Device according to claim 21, wherein the buffer is arranged at least partially beside the conveyor zone.

23. (New) Device according to claim 21, wherein the buffer is arranged at least partially beneath the conveyor zone.

24. (New) Device according to claim 21, wherein the buffer has at least one endless conveyor chain for receiving at least one layer of plastic bottles.